**Writing About Art: Day 2**

People often have a very difficult time discussing or writing about art. This is because we are trained from a very early age that art cannot be assailed. Or that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Although this is true, in this class, we are not concerned with it. Instead we are concerned with describing the ways that art works. In fact that metric, does it work, is the only question that we are concerned with.

**In this class you will receive questions like this:**

The ideal in every society is often connected with beauty. Fully identify two people, one male and one female, and explain how they demonstrate beauty by reflecting ideals in the society they come from.

**How to answer:**

**Step 1** pick two images that answer the question.

**Step 2** rephrase the question in the form of an answer and incorporate those images into that answer.

***Example:*** *Both Jake Gyllenhaal and Scarlett Johansson are excellent examples of two people that represent the ideal of the beautiful in 21st century America.*

**Step 3** **CD**: then pick 1 concrete detail about one image that express the point you are trying to make, in this case beauty, and describe that detail that is beautiful. Oh yea, and don’t just write hair; what color is it is it? Is it curly? Is it thick? Does it look like a lion’s mane?

*For example, the golden mass of thick magical locks falling just below the ear that spritely bounces about in a fashion that suggests that you have encountered an immortal. Not just blonde and curly! MORE MORE MORE MORE is often my mantra*

**Step 4 CM**: now describe how that detail answers the question, when you do this **make sure you use the words from the** **thesis** in your answer.

*For example, this truly unearthly hair is considered* ***beautiful in our society*** *because blonde is liked with gold and as gold both a desired substance in our society, and rare to boot. Furthermore the thickness of the hair demonstrates health and vitality which is an* ***ideal*** *that our society feels is very* ***beautiful*** *as that vitality is necessary in work and raising a family.*

*Again MORE MORE MORE MORE*

**Then for each piece you do this three times**

It looks like this:

Thesis that answers the question and fully identifies (or as fully as possible) the images that you are using

Image #1

CD describe the image in a way that answers the question (beauty and ideal)

CM include the key words from the thesis (beauty and ideal)

CD again

CM again

CD again

CM again

Then repeat for image #2

**Homework Essay #1**

**Due 3 Sept**

People in the Prehistoric period often created art that was either very large, or very small. Choose two examples, both of which must come from the Prehistoric period c. 30,000-1000 BCE, analyzing the reasons why the art of that period was either large or small.

What should it look like?

1. 2 pages, STAPLED
2. Typed
3. Times New Roman
4. Single spaced
5. MAKE SURE YOU PICK TWO PIECES FROM THE RIGHT ERA. MAKE SURE THAT YOU IDENTIFY A **CD** AND MAKE A **CM** ABOUT EACH. IN YOUR CM’S YOU **MUST** EXPLAIN WHY THE OBJECT IN QUESTION NEEDS TO BE EITHER LARGE OR SMALL.

Example APAH essay

**Prompt:**

The Neoclassical and Romantic movements were both concerned with nationalism. Choose two paintings, one from each period, and explain how these paintings demonstrate this.

**Thesis example**

The French revolutionary forces of 1789 couldn’t have better propaganda than the paintings produced by Jacques-Louis David. His painting Oath of the Horatii c. 1785,demonstrates nationalism through a neoclassical lens. The coming French Revolution however, did not just cause artists to create pieces of nationalistic art in France. As Napoleonic forces swept across Europe, Francisco Goya produced a Romantic version of a nationalistic painting for the Spanish; *The Third of May, 1808* is full of terror and tragedy, and motivates the viewer to risk life and limb in the fight against the French, for Spain.

**Commentary on my thesis paragraph**

* Note that there are two pieces that are fully identified (artist, title, date, movement)
  + Note also that these two pieces answer the question (nationalism, Neoclassicism, and Romanticism)
* The rest is just for the pretty, nice, but not necessary
* You could just as easily say

The Oath of the Horatii c. 1785, a Neoclassical painting by Jacques-Louis David and, The Third of May, 1808 a Romantic painting by Francisco Goya both utilize nationalism as a major theme.

**Both are acceptable… the first one is better though as it is more funner to read ☺**

**Piece discussion**

**Start with your first piece and reidentify it, you don’t have to do it all again just make sure I know what you are writing about**

Five years before the French Revolution took place, Jacques-Louis David produced what can be called his most famous work, Oath of the Horatii,a Neoclassical piece that glorifies jingoistic nationalism.

**CD or concrete detail**

This painting focuses on clear hard details, like the solidly crafted columns, and tends to not use the more wispy brushstrokes preferred by Romantic artists like Goya.

**Commentary**

* Note that there is a definition of the way that the painting is executed in a Neoclassical fashion (clear hard details).
* Note that there is also an actual detail from the painting that is mentioned (the columns)

**CM or Commentary**

This clarity and solidity was important for Neoclassical painters, because it is through this clarity that the viewer easily understands the message of the painter. That message is nationalistic in its character, as the Roman men who pledge to fight for Rome, are a thinly veiled metaphor for the men of France, who should pledge to fight for France. Both the clarity and its Roman subject matter are important as it allows the viewer to easily access the heavily nationalistic message of the painting.

**Commentary**

* Note that the key words (Neoclassical, nationalism) are used again
* Note that the **reason/s** that the painters chose to paint the way they did are explained
  + Clarity of message

Do this three times, then do it again for the other piece and you are finished.